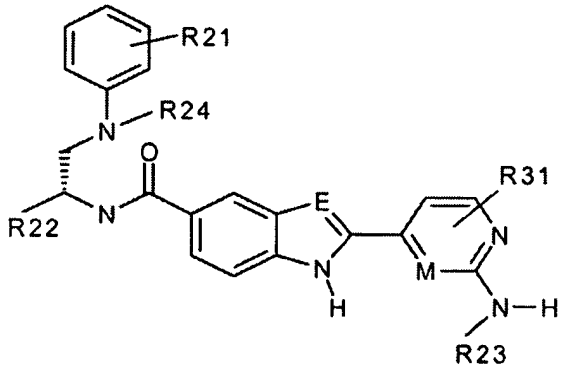
Claims:

1-5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) A method for treating pain in a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of an IκB-kinase inhibitor of the compound of formula Ia: ~~The method according to claim 2, wherein, for formula Ia,~~



(Ia)

or a stereoisomeric form thereof or a mixture of stereoisomeric forms in any ratio, or a physiologically tolerated salt thereof, wherein,

E is ~~N or~~ CH;

M is N or CH;

R21 is hydrogen,
halogen,
-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,
-CN,
-CF_3,
-OR^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,
-$N(R^{15})$-R^{16} wherein, R^{15} and R^{16} are, independently of each other, hydrogen
or
–(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-C(O)-R^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or

-$S(O)_x$-R^{15}, wherein, x is zero, 1 or 2, and R^{15} is hydrogen or -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl;

R31 is hydrogen,

halogen,

-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-CN,

-CF_3,

-OR^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen atom or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-N(R^{15})-R^{16}wherein, R^{15} and R^{16} are, independently of each other, hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-C(O)-R^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or

-$S(O)_x$-R^{15}, wherein, x is zero, 1 or 2, and R^{15} is hydrogen or -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl;

R22 is a heteroaryl radical selected from 3-hydroxypyrro-2,4-dione, imidazole, imidazolidine, imidazoline, indazole, isothiazole, isothiazolidine, isoxazole, 2-isoxazolidine, isoxazolidine, isoxazolone, morpholine, oxazole, 1,3,4-oxadiazole, oxadiazolidinedione, oxadiazolone, 1,2,3,5-oxathiadiazole-2-oxide, 5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-[1,3,4]oxadiazole, 5-oxo-1,2,4-thiadiazole, piperazine, pyrazine, pyrazole, pyrazoline, pyrazolidine, pyridazine, pyrimidine, tetrazole, thiadiazole, thiazole, thiomorpholine, triazole and triazolone, wherein the heteroaryl radical is optionally substituted one, two or three times by -C(O)-R^{15}, wherein R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, -O-R^{15}, wherein R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, -N(R^{15})-R^{16}, wherein R^{15} and R^{16} are, independently of each other, hydrogen or -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, halogen, or a keto radical,

-C(O)-R^{15}, wherein R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-C(O)-OR^{15}, wherein R^{15} is hydrogen or -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or

-C(O)-N(R^{17})-R^{18}, wherein R^{17} and R^{18} are, independently of each other, hydrogen, -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl-OH, -O-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl or -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl;

R23 is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl; and

R24 is a heteroaryl radical selected from pyrrole, furan, thiophene, imidazole, pyrazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole, isothiazole, tetrazole, 1,2,3,5-oxathiadiazole-2-oxide, triazolones, oxadiazolones, isoxazolones, oxadiazolidinedione, triazole, 3-hydroxypyrro-2,4-dione, 5-oxo-1,2,4-thiadiazole, pyridine, pyrazine, pyrimidine, indole, isoindole, indazole, phthalazine, quinoline, isoquinoline, quinoxaline, quinazoline, cinnoline, β-carboline and benzo fused cyclopenta derivatives or cyclohexa derivatives of these heteroaryl radicals, wherein the heteroaryl radical is optionally substituted, one, two or three times, independently of each other, by -(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, -(C_1-C_5)-alkoxy, halogen, nitro, amino, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, hydroxy-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, formyl, acetyl, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl or -(C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, or an aryl radical selected from phenyl, naphthyl, 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, biphenylyl, 2-biphenylyl, 3-biphenylyl and 4-biphenylyl, anthryl and fluorenyl, wherein the aryl radical is optionally substituted, one, two or three times, independently of each other, by –(C_1-C_5)-alkyl, -(C_1-C_5)-alkoxy, halogen, nitro, amino, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, hydroxy-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, formyl, acetyl, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl or –(C_1.C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein, for formula Ia,

E is ~~N or~~ CH;

M is N or CH;

R21 is hydrogen,
halogen,
-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,
-CN,
-CF_3,

-OR^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen atom or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-$N(R^{15})$-R^{16} wherein, R^{15} and R^{16} are, independently of each other, hydrogen or

–(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-$C(O)$-R^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or

-$S(O)_x$-R^{15}, wherein, x is zero, 1 or 2, and R^{15} is hydrogen or -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl;

R22 is a heteroaryl radical selected from imidazole, isothiazole, isoxazole, 2-isoxazolidine, isoxazolidine, isoxazolone, 1,3,4-oxadiazole, oxadiazolidinedione, 1,2,3,5-oxadiazolone, oxazole, 5-oxo-4,5-dihydro[1,3,4]oxadiazole, tetrazole, thiadiazole, thiazole, triazole and triazolone, wherein the heteroaryl radical is optionally substituted one, two or three times by a keto radical, halogen, or -(C_1-C_2)-alkyl,

-$C(O)$-$N(R^{17})$-R^{18}, wherein R^{17} and R^{18} are hydrogen, –(C_1-C_2)-alkyl-OH, –O-(C_1-C_2)-alkyl, or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl;

R23 is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R24 is a heteroaryl radical selected from unsaturated, partially saturated and completely saturated rings which are derived from pyridine, pyrazine, pyrimidine, pyridazine, pyrrole, furan, thiophene, imidazole, pyrazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole, triazole or isothiazole, wherein the heteroaryl radical is optionally substituted, one, two or three times, independently of each other by -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, –(C_1-C_4)-alkoxy, F, Cl, I, Br, nitro, amino, trifluoromethyl, hydroxyl, hydroxy-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, formyl, acetyl, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl or –(C_1-C_4)-alkoxycarbonyl, or phenyl, wherein, the phenyl is optionally substituted one, two or three times, independently of each other, by F, Cl, I, Br, CF_3, -OH, -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl or –(C_1-C_4)-alkoxy; and

R31 is hydrogen,

halogen,

-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-CN,

-CF_3,

-OR^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen atom or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-$N(R^{15})$-R^{16} wherein, R^{15} and R^{16} are, independently of each other, hydrogen or

–(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

-C(O)-R^{15}, wherein, R^{15} is hydrogen or –(C_1-C_4)-alkyl, or

-$S(O)_x$-R^{15}, wherein, x is zero, 1 or 2, and R^{15} is hydrogen or -(C_1-C_4)-alkyl.

8-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the compound of formula Ia is, wherein the compound N-[(*S*)-2-diphenylamino-1-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro[1,3,4]oxadiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-2-(2-methylaminopyrimidin-4-yl)-1H-indole-5-carboxamide ~~or N-((S)-1-carbamoyl-2-diphenylamino-ethyl)-2-(2-methylaminopyrimidin-4-yl)-1H-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide~~.

12-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2 ~~12~~, wherein the ~~acute~~ pain is an acute pain selected from a pain following injury, a post-operative pain, a pain associated with an acute attack of gout, and an acute pain following jaw-bone surgical intervention.

15-17. (cancelled)